

JORDAN TIMES

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جوردين تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية «الراي»

Hassan Ibrahim ends Arab tour

AMMAN, March 23 (JNA). — The Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Hassan Ibrahim returned to Amman today at the end of a tour that took him to Egypt, Libya, Algeria and Morocco. In a statement upon return, Mr. Ibrahim said that he had delivered messages from His Majesty King Hussein to the leaders of the Arab states he visited. "The Arab leaders have expressed understanding and appreciation for King Hussein's evaluation of the Arab situation and have welcomed the King's call for an Arab summit," Mr. Ibrahim said.

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AMMAN, FRIDAY, MARCH 24, 1978 — RABIE AL THANI 14, 1378

Syria doubts U.S., Israel clash

DAMASCUS, March 23 (R). — Divergence of views between Israel and the United States does not mean they will lead to a confrontation, a Syrian government spokesman said today. Commenting on reports of the apparent failure of talks between Israeli Premier Menachem Begin and President Carter, the spokesman said: "Contradiction in the American and Israeli positions does not mean the two sides will reach a point of division or confrontation. It means that the Americans want the Israelis to follow a course serving America's strategic aims." "The White House intervenes whenever Israel exceeds its role," the source added.

King Hussein lands in Iran

TEHRAN, March 23 (Agencies). — His Majesty King Hussein arrived in Tehran today on a private visit. The King will meet with the Shah, during his visit, which is expected to last several days.

His Majesty is accompanied by Princess Basma, the King's sons: Princes Abdullah and Faisal and the chief chamberlain.

Crown Prince Hassan was sworn in as Viceroy for the period of the King's absence.



Two Lebanese soldiers (right) fraternise with some of the French paratroopers of the French contingent of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon Thursday. (AP wirephoto)

U.S. examines Israeli violation of arms laws

WASHINGTON, March 23 (R). — A special top-level investigation has been started to determine whether Israel's use of U.S. weapons in the invasion of Lebanon has violated an American law which limits the use of its arms exports.

A Defense Department spokesman told a press briefing Israel's reported use of the new F-15 fighter in Lebanon was being studied. He declined to elaborate.

Americans are evenly divided over whether the U.S. government should cut off aid to Israel unless a peace agreement is signed, an Associated Press-NBC news poll conducted on Tuesday and Wednesday shows.

Despite sentiment for less

U.S. involvement in the Middle East, about half of those questioned said Israel was justified in invading Lebanon in its effort to stop terrorist attacks.

Forty-two per cent agreed with the statement that all U.S. aid to Israel should be cut off unless Israel signs a peace pact. About 46 per cent disagreed with the statement. Twelve per cent were not sure.

Thirty-five per cent said the invasion was not justified. Sixteen per cent were not certain. Asked about the critical issue of whether Israel should give up occupied territory in Sinai, the West Bank and the Golan Heights, again sentiment was divided, although almost a quarter of those questioned said they were not sure.

Ghali denies direct dialogue with Israel

COLOMBO, March 22 (R). — Egyptian Deputy Foreign Minister Boutros Ghali said today his country had no direct dialogue with Israel now and would only resume it when Israel withdrew from all occupied territory.

Dr. Ghali, who arrived in Sri Lanka yesterday, said Israel must also accept the principle of the right of Palestinians to self-determination before the direct talks could be resumed.

The Egyptian deputy minister has brought a personal message from President Anwar Sadat to Sri Lankan President Julius Jayewardene.

Meanwhile it was reported from Tel Aviv that the small Israeli military delegation in

Cairo was changed this week for the third time, army sources said.

Colonel Yacov Heichal flew in an Israeli air force plane with a group of army technicians, communications personnel and security men to replace Colonel Eliezer Rimon and members of his team.

The Israeli military presence has been maintained in Cairo since the halt of the bilateral military talks two months ago.

Observers said the small group of Israeli officers and soldiers was being kept in Cairo to indicate that the military talks were still formally in session, unlike the parallel political talks which were broken off after a brief meeting in Jerusalem.

Israeli jets raid south Lebanon on third day of fragile ceasefire

BEIRUT, March 23 (R). — Sporadic outbursts of shooting and shelling were reported from southern Lebanon today on the third day of a ceasefire in the region.

Workers at a Red Cross centre in the southern port city of Tyre said they saw Israeli planes bombing an area close to the coast near the Israeli border.

But a military spokesman in Tel Aviv later denied that Israeli forces had opened fire anywhere in south Lebanon during the day.

A Palestinian commando spokesman said Israeli forces had shelled Palestinian positions in the south. He said the commandos had returned the fire and raided posts behind Israeli lines.

In Metullah in northern Israel, United Nations officials said

Lebanese Christian militiamen had fired shots over the heads of Iranian troops of the U.N. force moving into south Lebanon.

They also said Christian Phalangist forces had blocked the way of Iranian troops trying to set up a post on a bridge over the Litani River, but Israeli officers had persuaded them to let the Iranians through.

The Christian forces, who regard the Israelis as their allies, have strongly objected to the posting of U.N. forces to replace Israeli troops who invaded the south 10 days ago. French paratroops arrived in Lebanon today to join the U.N.

force, but there was no indication when they would take up their duties.

In Paris, informed sources said the figure of 4,000 set by the U.N. for the force's strength would probably be insufficient and said France was prepared to increase its contribution.

As the shaky ceasefire continued, official figures issued in Beirut said the Israeli invasion had forced 265,000 people to flee their homes. The Lebanese government and a U.N. agency said 200,000 Lebanese and 65,000 Palestinians had been forced out of the south to seek shelter elsewhere.

Relations could be worse, says Dayan

TEL AVIV, March 23 (R). — Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan said today relations between Israel and the United States had, in the past, been more troubled than they were now.

Mr. Dayan spoke to correspondents when he returned from Washington where Prime Minister Menachem Begin and President Carter ended summit talks in disagreement on basic issues of Middle East policy.

"The present crisis in relations between Israel and the United States is by no means the worst we have had. You cannot possibly compare it with the crisis created when (former prime minister David) Ben-Gurion had to withdraw from Sinai (in 1956)."

"That was very much worse. This time there has not been the slightest hint of any pressure on Israel, whereas in 1956 the pressure was accompanied by threats," he said.

The talks in Washington had been about peace negotiations between Israel and Egypt.

"You cannot say that everything was negative. There were also some most important and positive results," he said.

He said that Israel had not raised the question of Lebanon. "This is a problem which has to be discussed here and talks about Lebanon are being conducted in Israel," he said.

Commandos get Saudi assistance

KUWAIT, March 23 (Agencies). — A Kuwaiti newspaper reported today that Saudi Arabia has provided Palestinian commando forces in southern Lebanon with urgent military, financial and medical aid.

In an uncorroborated report from Riyadh, the daily Al-Siyassah gave no details of the aid.

But it quoted a senior Palestinian envoy, Mr. Salim Al-Za'anoun, as saying after talks with Saudi ministers in Riyadh that "the Saudi position is one of strong support for the Palestinian revolution."

Mr. Za'anoun, the Gulf representative of Fatah, the biggest Palestinian commando group, called on Egypt to launch an initiative to bridge Arab division which he said were preventing the convening of "a serious and constructive Arab summit."

Al-Siyassah also said large numbers of Palestinian and other Arab volunteers have left Kuwait and other countries in the Gulf and the Arabian Peninsula for Lebanon to join Palestinian commandos.

Aid for refugees

The United States began delivering \$12 million worth of emergency relief aid today to the victims of fighting in south Lebanon.

The first plane load of blankets, tents and food supplies landed at Beirut airport and the aid was delivered to a Lebanese government commission in charge of handling the 200,000 refugees who fled the southern region during the fighting.

The American aid came in response to an appeal from Lebanese President Elias Sarkis.

It was also announced today that Britain is providing £50,000 worth of emergency aid for the refugees.

Chill from the White House cuts deep in Israel as Begin returns

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, March 23 (Agencies). — The rebuff encountered by Prime Minister Menachem Begin in Washington caused unease and led to political stirrings against his hard-line views in Israel today. The chill from the White House cut through the feverish preoccupation of the past week with the army's march into Lebanon.

Nowhere was there any attempt -- among diplomats, government officials or in Israeli press reports from Washington -- to deny that Mr. Begin's meetings with President Carter had been tough.

None of the official pronouncements had included common palliatives like "constructive" or "useful" to describe the two days of talks on a Middle East peace settlement, Israelis noted.

American officials, in analysing the talks between President Carter and Mr. Begin, cast the situation in a gloomy light.

Some members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, after meeting today with President Carter, said Israeli inflexibility had dimmed Middle East peace prospects.

Senator Jacob K. Javits said: "I think that prospects are momentarily discouraging" and he described President Carter's mood as deeply frustrated after two days of talks with Mr. Begin.

Senator George McGovern said that "Unless there is some more flexibility on the part of Israel... I don't see any hope for a settlement." McGovern said neither the Arabs nor Israel show "the degree of flexibility it will take to bring about a settlement."

Senator Charles Percy, Republican from Illinois, said it appeared that Israel had hardened its negotiating position.

"Now it appears as though there is an entirely different policy by Israel than there has been in the past," he told reporters after the White House meeting.

He added that he had hoped Jordan could be brought into peace talks as a moderating presence after the Carter-Begin meeting but he now saw no basis for this.

While the Israeli premier was in Washington President Carter pressed forward with his plans to sell warplanes to Egypt and Saudi Arabia. Israel is also included in the deal.

Clement Zablocki, Chairman of the House of Representatives International Relations Committee, said he thought Congress would support the deal.

He indicated that Israel's invasion of Lebanon had swayed the views of both houses in favour of the two Arab countries.

Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan said on returning from Washington that it might have been worse.

Labour Party sees a ripe opportunity

But the opposition Labour Party expressed deep apprehension. It said the party would do everything it could to resume peace talks.

Press comment was largely in tune with an editorial in the English language Jerusalem Post. This said: "The time has come to rethink our positions rather than dig in defiantly. It is to be hoped that Mr. Begin and the government will now engage in such a reassessment of our positions and strategies."

For the Labour Party, the occasion looked ripe for a forceful political onslaught against Mr. Begin's rightwing coalition.

The issue on which the Washington talks foundered was Mr. Begin's refusal to consider an Israeli military withdrawal from the West Bank of the River Jordan or from the Gaza Strip.

Mr. Begin refused to accept the American argument that the West Bank and Gaza were covered by United Nations Resolution 242.

On this question, the Labour Party's view is closer to the American one. Before losing power last May the party opposition was that Israel should withdraw from some, though not all, of the West Bank.

After several months in power Mr. Begin's political stock has advanced on the decline. Economic troubles, the fading of peace hopes aroused by President Anwar Sadat's visit to

Jerusalem last November and signs of cabinet dissension all contributed to lowering his prestige.

Political commentators started talking about Defence Minister Ezer Weizman as a potential prime minister. And Mr. Weizman, who since coming to office had maintained low public visibility, suddenly began making appearances at news conferences and on television.

Second thoughts about invasion of Lebanon

These political portents were

smothered by the Palestinian attack which killed 34 Israelis on the outskirts of Tel Aviv on March 11 and by the subsequent invasion of south Lebanon.

While the Israeli attack was in progress, public opinion seemed largely in favour of it.

The general feeling seemed to be a compound of gratification at revenge for Israeli lives and a belief that future Palestinian attacks were being staved off.

Labour leader Shimon Peres at the time expressed general approval of the invasion. He said it would not be correct to criticise the government while Israeli troops were in combat.

With a ceasefire in force and United Nations forces moving in, there were some signs of second thoughts about the Lebanon operation.

Open to question was whether the operation had actually stamped out Palestinian activity or whether it had resulted in creation of a U.N. protected zone through which Palestinians could filter but which Israelis could not attack.

The guerrillas who raided Tel Aviv were based not in the south of Lebanon but at Damour, close to Beirut. Military commentators noted that future attacks could as easily be launched from mother ships sailing from any hard-line Arab state such as the Libyan Jamahiriya.

One member of the Knesset, Amnon Rubinstein, noted that the establishment of a U.N. force in Lebanon meant that the United Nations soldiers were now interposed between Israel and three of her four neighbours. The only exception was Jordan and the West Bank.

Mr. Rubinstein belongs to the Democratic Movement for Change, most dovish of the groups in the Begin coalition.

Israel's reluctant acceptance of a U.N. presence in Lebanon was seen by some diplomats as a possible precedent for persuading the Israelis to accept similar arrangements for the West Bank.

U.S. expected to step in

The United States is now widely expected, after a brief interval, to step forward with a compromise settlement plan. This would probably be in the form of a draft declaration for peace principles for the stalled negotiations between Israel and Egypt.

Government officials have no doubt that the compromise would be unpalatable to Mr. Begin. Privately, some officials are saying that if further negotiations with Egypt prove impractical it might be possible to revise the idea of a Geneva conference embracing all parties including the Soviet Union.

is a need to replace Prime Minister Menachem Begin.

The report, attributed to an Israeli Radio political reporter, did not name the American official or the Israeli leader supposedly involved.

NBC Radio carried a similar report Thursday, quoting unnamed senior government officials in Tel Aviv as saying a high-level U.S. official had "bluntly" told Israel in Washington that Mr. Begin must step down if peace efforts are to succeed.

In Washington, White House Press Secretary Jody Powell said reports that U.S. officials were trying to force Begin from office "were without foundation."

"I rather doubt seriously that any high American officials made any such statements," Mr. Powell told reporters.

Begin: C'est la vie

WASHINGTON, March 23 (Agencies). — Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin today shrugged off his difficult talks here with President Carter and told a television interviewer "Such is life... There will be sunshine."

"As the French would say, 'c'est la vie'" the Israeli premier was quoted as saying.

Mr. Begin said he would report to his cabinet after returning home today from two days of talks with President Carter. The talks ended in deadlock with no early prospect of renewed Egyptian-Israeli negotiations.

It was reported today that a highly placed American official had told an Israeli leader in Mr. Begin's party: "For the sake of continued negotiations between Israel and Egypt there

d'Estaing invites opposition leaders to consultations before appointing new French premier

PARIS, March 23 (R). — President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing today backed up his pledge to work for greater national unity by inviting opposition leaders defeated in last Sunday's general elections to meet him next week before he appoints a new prime minister.

The invitation was immediately

accepted by Socialist Party leader Francois Mitterrand and leftwing Radical Robert Fabre. Communist chief Georges Marchais delayed his reply for more than six hours and then announced that he too would meet the president.

The president's initiative followed the unexpectedly heavy defeat of the combined left by

the ruling centre-right coalition in the elections.

Although the coalition of Gaullists, Centreists and Republicans won the two-round election by 91 seats, there were less than 400,000 votes between the two sides. The Socialists picked up more popular votes than any other party.

In a broadcast to the nation last night, M. Giscard d'Estaing said the time had come to end the split between left and right in France and called for a "reasonable cohabitation" between the majority parties and the opposition.

In a remarkably conciliatory message to the left, he said that Socialists and Communists were French citizens just like everyone else and that the general election was not designed to distinguish good and bad Frenchmen.

He announced he was immediately starting consultations with business and labour leaders to ask their advice on what they considered to be France's priority problems.

"After these political and economic discussions, a new government will be formed," he added.

The president today followed this up by meeting Andre Bergeron, leader of the moderate Force Ouvriere trade union, and by announcing his invitations to the three opposition chiefs.

He will see M. Mitterrand on Tuesday and will also have consultations with coalition party leaders, including Gaullist Jacques Chirac.

Al Ahram urges Arab detente

CAIRO, March 23 (R). — Egypt's Al Ahram newspaper called today for President Sadat and hardline Arab opponents of his Middle East settlement bid to meet urgently, set a deadline for an Arab-Israeli peace deal and prepare war plans as an alternative.

The semi-official newspaper's Arab diplomatic correspondent suggested that the leaders of Syria, the Libyan Jamahiriya, Algeria and Iraq fly to Cairo for emergency talks.

It urged them to fix a deadline, not later than next September, for attempts to resolve the Arab-Israeli issue by peaceful means.

They should press the Security Council to implement its Resolution 242 calling on Israel to withdraw from occupied Arab land, the Al Ahram article said.

In case all peaceful efforts failed, they would set up a joint command to pool the resources of the five powers and prepare their armies for war, it suggested.

Meanwhile United Arab Emirates (UAE) President Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahayan arrived in Saudi Arabia today for a two-day visit, Riyadh radio reported.

He was received at Riyadh airport by King Khalid and senior Saudi officials, the radio said.

Moro's kidnappers still evading police

ROME, March 23 (Agencies). — Although little other progress has been made in the hunt for the Red Brigades kidnappers of ex-Premier Aldo Moro who vanished one week ago a newspaper reported today that police do know the identity of one of the gang.

Corriere Della Sera of Milan said he was Prospero Gallinari, a veteran leader of the far-left guerrilla group.

It said witnesses of the ambush of Signor Moro's car, had identified Gallinari. They said he sat beside the driver of a car which stopped in front of Signor Moro's in the ambush in which the policeman's five guards were shot dead.

Two extremists were arrested today by police hunting for Moro's kidnappers. One of them tried to swallow a letter with German names on it but police managed to seize part of it.

Police did not say, however,

whether the two men arrested had any connection with the gang or the abduction. And senior anti-terrorist officer commented privately today that the police did not have any idea where Signor Moro was.

Apart from rumblings of criticism of the way the affair has been handled from the Italian press, one sharp protest came from the leader of the small but influential Radical Party, former Vice-Premier Ugo La Malfa.

Signor La Malfa charged that the police had acted slowly, that the government should have imposed a curfew and introduced the death sentence, and he said "I hope Moro does not pay for our errors."

Meanwhile the trial of 15 members of the Red Brigades in Turin has been recessed for one week because of Easter. The 15 are charged with organising an armed band to overthrow the state.

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This was not our finest moment

This past week will not go down in history as one of the Arabs' finest moments, but then history, in the hands of the Arabs, is a peculiar beacon to guide our actions. We have our grandeur and our failures etched deeply throughout the fabric of history, but the lesson that stands out most glaringly from the past is that Arab success has always been built on the shoulders of cooperation and coordination. This week, it has been plain for anyone to see that the Arab World has reached something of a new low in its clumsy confrontation with the forces of Zionism and imperialism. Like the value of the dollar, the Arabs are capable of reaching ever lower depths of inaction week after week, and this week we have reached yet another low. We do not say this with any pride, except, perhaps, with the pride that comes from confronting the realities of our world honestly, which is not unlike the pride of the refugee or the generosity of the poor.

The Israeli invasion of south Lebanon has left the Arab World exposed to the ridicule of people everywhere, including many Arabs themselves. While Israel marched forth virtually unchallenged except for the brave resistance of small groups of Palestinian resistance fighters, the rest of the Arab World shook under the thunder of words, rocked under the pounding of promises and reeled from the reverberations of vast commitments to solidarity and to resist the Israeli aggression. No doubt, the Israelis will only feel reassured that they can do this sort of thing virtually at their own will. In the first major military episode since the 1973 War, the Israelis have come out confident that they have something of a free hand.

This week, it was southern Lebanon. Next week, it may be somewhere else. The unpleasant fact is that the Arabs are pulling off one of history's most cruel self-deceptions if they think they can really confront Israel in the manner that they did this week. But the week is history now, and history tells us that great achievements often come from nations rising to the challenges of the day. It didn't happen last week, a fact that is as obvious to the Israelis as it is to us.

ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

AL RAI editorially said Thursday that Israel clearly wants to utilise the so called security belt it imposed in south Lebanon to serve its objectives and expansionist ambitions by manipulating the recent U.N. Security Council resolution 425 which calls for immediate Israeli withdrawal from south Lebanon and the stationing of U.N. forces on the area.

Comparing the south Lebanon "security belt" with former Israeli Foreign Minister Yigal Allon's plan for stationing Israeli forces along the Jordan River in the West Bank, Al Rai says that Israel wants to transform the U.N. forces and the Lebanese army - which will be stationed on a stretch of land from the Litani River to the Lebanese-Israeli boundaries - into an ordinary police force to prevent the Palestinian resistance from attacking the nearby Jewish settlements. Likewise, in the West Bank, Israel wants the inhabitants of its settlements together with the Israeli forces to carry out police duties. It even wants to prevent the Arab inhabitants there from holding on to their Jordanian nationality.

"With this logic, Mr. Pegin is trying to persuade President Carter to accept Israel's peace plan," the newspaper says. Al Rai warns against Israel's strategy of imposing security belts whose purpose is in fact to continue the occupation of Arab territory.

AL DUSTOUR called on the Arab "steadfast and confrontation" countries (the anti-Sadat alignment) to reverse their decision to stay away from any Arab summit which would be attended by President Anwar Sadat.

The newspaper says an Arab summit was essential for Arab leaders to settle their differences, restore solidarity and live up to their responsibilities.

"The unprecedented painful Arab state of affairs... is the bitter fruit of the differences that have torn apart the Arab leadership. It is no secret that these differences are the sharpest weapons in the hands of Israel," the newspaper says.

Arab leaders should not hesitate to meet at the highest level "because the dimensions of the tragedy which has befallen our nation are much bigger than any justification for the boycott of the proposed Arab summit," it says.

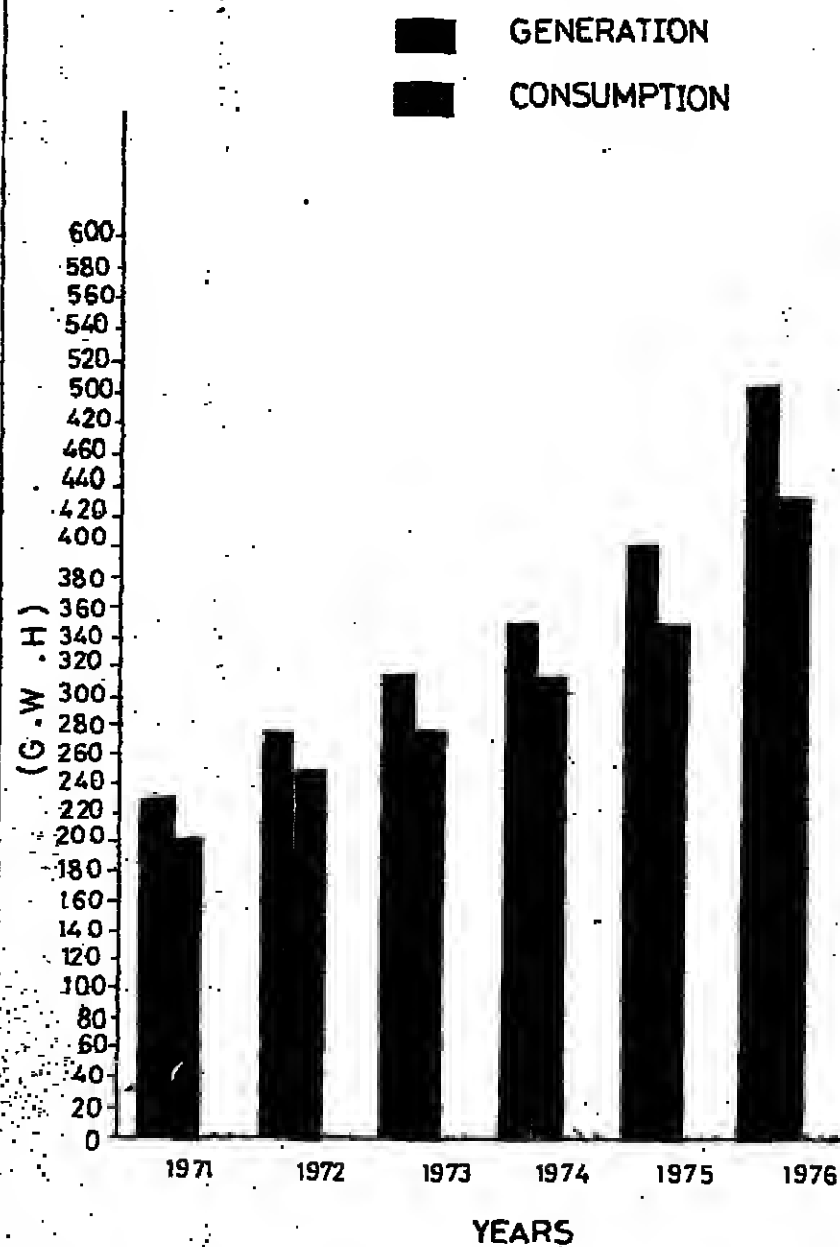
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Amended company law aims to boost foreign investment

AMMAN, March 23 (JT). — The Council of Ministers yesterday approved a number of amendments to the companies law of 1964.

An official source at the Ministry of Industry and Commerce stated today that the amendments aimed to encourage foreign investment. They take into consideration Arab and especially Syrian laws in order to promote commercial integration, the source continued.

The amendments also take into consideration the activities of the recently established Amman Stock Exchange.

The amendments raise the maximum limit on the capital of some private incorporated companies, especially industrial ones, from JD 250,000 up to JD 500,000.

This increase, the source said, will enable companies to expand without changing their legal status. The former law stipulated that a rise of such an amount compelled the company to become publicly incorporated.

Minimum capital value for public incorporated companies is raised from JD 10,000 to JD 60,000 while that of private companies is raised from JD 2,000 to JD 10,000.

On the subject of compulsory liquidation of companies the new law rules that such an act should be carried out if the company in question fails to operate for a duration of one year registration.

The new amendment gives the Ministry of Industry and

Commerce the right to draw up any regulations relating to the legal status of different kinds of companies.

Economic and Business News

Potash council reorganised

AMMAN, March 23 (JNA). — The administrative council of the Arab Potash Company will consist of 11 members. This is in accordance with an amendment of the company statute recommended by its Director General and Chairman, Mr. Ali Al Khasawneh to the Economic Security Committee recently. Six council members will be appointed by the government, three by the Arab Mining Company and two by other shareholders.

Arab Jordanian Investment Bank to elect

a new board of directors

AMMAN, March 23 (JT). — The temporary board of directors of the Jordanian Arab Investment Bank will meet on April 5 to elect a new board of directors for the bank. The Central Bank last November approved the constitution of this bank with a capital of JD 5 million divided into 5 million shares, the nominal value of each share being JD 1. The draft agreement was signed by representatives of the parties participating in the bank which are the Jordanian Retirement Fund, the Housing Bank, Jordan's Ahli Bank, Jordan Bank, Petra Bank, the Jordanian Insurance Company, the Qatari National Bank, Abu Dhabi Investment Fund, Arab Company for Investment in Saudi Arabia, Jordan's Ahli Bank, Saudi Arabia branch, and the Arab Libyan Overseas Bank.

Giant power plant to be built at Aqaba

The thermal power station at Zarqa, described in yesterday's paper, is still being built. But already there are plans for a second and bigger station in the south. 300 villages are being electrified and Jordan's power network improved. The country's rapid electricity expansion is the subject of this article, the second in a two-part series.

By Ian Kellas
 Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN, March 23. — Plans to build a power station on the southern-most tip of Jordan, which may eventually dwarf the present King Hussein Power Station at Zarqa have now received official approval. Tenders are likely to be put out within the year and the station will probably be in operation by 1983.

At a time when work is going ahead to triple the capacity of the new thermal power station at Zarqa, the Jordan Electricity Authority is already looking forward to the time when the net flow of power in the country will be from south to north.

Jordan's growing power needs

The Planning Manager at the authority, Mr. Mohammad Arafah, told the Jordan Times that the demand for electricity in Amman had jumped by 300 per cent in five years and was expected to be 50 per cent higher again next year.

Jordan's present per capita consumption of electricity is very low on the world scale. Kuwait, for instance last year consumed about 1,500 kilowatt (KW) hours per capita, whereas Jordan's figure was only 250 KW hours. But the rate of expansion here is now very high. Britain's consumption is actually declining at the moment by about one per cent a year. Here demand is growing by an average of about 25 per cent.

Half of the sudden increase in demand for the year 1978 is because of new bulk loads that are expected from industry. The refinery for instance will be using three times as much electricity this year as it did last.

Jordan's potash project is expected to require about 50 MW in 1982. And it is largely to service heavy industrial de-

mand like this that the new power station at Aqaba is planned.

The Aqaba power plant

The Aqaba station, like the one at Zarqa, will be powered by steam turbines. Unlike the Zarqa station, it will be water-cooled. Its site at Wadi Two, a couple of miles from the Saudi Arabian border and the easy availability of fuel and water make it possible for the station to expand much further than will be possible at Zarqa. It could eventually have a capacity of 1,200 MW.

Electricity Thermal Power Projects Manager Nasser Sadun told the Jordan Times.

The British consultants, Price, Cardew and Rider (P.C. & R.) are at the moment updating a feasibility study that they have conducted for the power station. According to present plans three 33 MW units will be ordered for the first stage of the project. They are likely to cost \$60 or \$70 million.

To fill the gap in development at Aqaba two 3.5 MW diesel units have meanwhile been ordered and they will come into operation in August this year. Documents are being prepared now for stage two of this smaller project which will consist of three 5 MW diesel units to be operational in 1981.

Other projects

Aqaba, however has no monopoly on electricity development. Karak is being fitted out with a new diesel power station, with a capacity of 4.5 MW which will be ready by about August this year.

And there is an ambitious five-year scheme to electrify 300 villages throughout the Kingdom. This project has the unique distinction of being financed by the United States, Britain and the Soviet Union. This year 50 villages will be

given power. Half of these are in the Jordan Valley region while the others will be supplied from Karak.

Running in tandem with projects to increase generating output in the country, there are schemes to improve the network of transmission lines between the various stations. A 132-KV transmission line will be ready by October this year to link Irbid with Amman. And by about the same time Jordan's transmission links with Syria will be upgraded to an interchanging capacity of 100 MW. By 1986, Mr. Arafah said, Jordan will enjoy as good an interconnecting system as any in the world.

Talking about all these plans for development, the projects managers at the Jordan Electricity Authority light up with excitement. They see electricity development not just as prerequisite for industrial development but also as an indicator of social development in the country.

So how far do their plans go? Studies have been undertaken into the feasibility of going nuclear. One possibility is an inter-Arab nuclear power station, perhaps on the Saudi Arabian border. But this is not exactly an immediate priority. Even with demand continuing to rise steeply, an optimistic target date for this project would still be no earlier than the year 2000.



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National News Roundup

Crown Prince's support for karate praised

AMMAN, March 23 (JNA). — The Chairman of the World Confederation of Karate has presented His Highness Crown Prince Hassan with a commemorative portrait in recognition of his support and encouragement of this sport in Jordan. The portrait was delivered to the Crown Prince by the South Korean ambassador to Jordan.

How to save fig trees from worms

SALT, March 23 (JNA). — A seminar on means of combating diseases affecting fig trees was held today at the municipality of 'Ain El Pasha in the Balqa Governorate. One of the subjects raised at the seminar was the best means of protecting the trees against worms.

Cement dust may be turned into fertilizer

AMMAN, March 23 (JNA). — The Jordan Cement Factory today made a grant of JD 1,000 to the agriculture faculty in the University of Jordan to finance a study on using cement factory dust as an agricultural fertilizer.

Pakistani scholars visit Karamah memorial

AMMAN, March 23 (JNA). — The Pakistani universities delegation, on a visit to Jordan, today toured a number of military positions in the south Jordan Valley area. They also visited the Karamah battle monument where the head of the delegation, Dr. Kazi laid a wreath. The delegation was accompanied by several staff members of the University of Jordan which has invited the Pakistani scholars to Jordan.

JNA featured in Arab news agency magazine

BEIRUT, March 23 (JNA). — The Arab News Agencies Union issued in Beirut today the first edition of a periodical covering the activities of Arab news agencies. The first edition of the periodical contains a feature report on the Jordan News Agency (JNA).

Ad-hoc medical committee meets

AMMAN, March 23 (JNA). — The ad-hoc committee which is presided over by the minister of health, for the formation of a higher medical studies council at the University of Jordan's medical faculty today held a meeting at the Ministry of Health to consider the council's jurisdiction. An authoritative source in the committee said the council will be authorised to recognise training hospitals in the kingdom and grant certificates to students pursuing advanced degrees.

Former cabinet minister dies

AMMAN, March 23 (JNA). — The Council of Ministers today announced with deep sorrow the death of a former cabinet member, Sami Ayyoub. The late Mr. Ayyoub had also served as Director of the Cooperative Organisation and as Keeper of the Royal Purse.

Zarqa River pollution discussed

AMMAN, March 23 (JT). — Measures to prevent contamination of the Zarqa river were discussed at a meeting held yesterday at the Ministry of Industry and Commerce and attended by representatives of the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and of factories situated along the Zarqa river.

Salt will have a museum

SALT, March 23 (JNA). — The Regional Organisation for Activation of Tourism in the Balqa Governorate in its meeting here today decided to develop the Al Rumayn water falls for the benefit of tourists. It also decided to establish a museum at the town of Salt next year and to repair a number of ancient mosaics. JD 10,000 were allocated for the Zayy tourist site.

45 merchants charged with profiteering

AMMAN, March 23 (JNA). — The Ministry of Supply today referred to the military tribunal forty five merchants and dealers from all parts of the country on charges of profiteering.

Two Yemeni officials trained by Agricultural Credit Corporation

AMMAN, March 23 (JT). — Two officials from North Yemen have just ended a three-month training course at the Agricultural Credit Corporation here. The two men were trained in accountancy, tax collection and projects evaluation.

Coming & Going...

Housing experts go to Oman

AMMAN, March 23 (JT). — Director of the Housing Bank Zuhair Al Khouri and Director General of the Housing Corporation Hamdallah Al Nabulsi will leave here tomorrow for Oman to advise on the establishment of a housing bank in the Sultanate.

Yemeni bankers come here

AMMAN, March 23 (JNA). — A three-member team from the newly-established Yemeni Housing Credit Bank has arrived in Amman to undergo a three-month training course in banking business at the Jordanian Housing Bank.

Social department head joins experts in Cairo

AMMAN, March 23 (JNA). — Director of the Social Affairs and Welfare Department, Khalid Al Radaydeh will represent Jordan at the meeting of Arab social development experts due to open on April 22 at the Arab League H.Q. in Cairo.

Jordan's delegate at chemistry congress in Australia



Prof. Musa Nazer, of the Department of Chemistry, University of Jordan, was among 60 overseas delegates at the UNESCO International Chemistry Congress last February at Perth, Western Australia. Prof. Nazer was a member of a panel of speakers on the paper UNESCO Regional Laboratory Workshops -- Accomplishments And Plans. The congress attracted 110 people from 31 countries. Its purpose was to evaluate present methods of teaching chemistry at university. In the picture above, members of the UNESCO chemistry congress discuss a point at an informal demonstration and poster session at the school of chemistry, University of Western Australia. From left to right are Prof. John T. Shimozaawa, of the Department of Chemistry, Saitama University, Japan; Prof. Musa Nazer; Prof. Ernesto Giesbrecht, of the Instituto de Quimica, Sao Paulo, Brazil; and Dr. John Webb, of the School of Mathematical and Physical Sciences, Murdoch University, Western Australia. (Australian Information Service Photograph by Mike Brown)

Amman Stock Exchange Report

NAME OF COMPANY	PAR value	Volume traded in JD	Opening price	Highest selling price	Lowest selling price	Closing price	Last buying bid	Last selling offer
* Jordan - Gulf Bank	JD 1,000	2,915	1,050	1,050	1,050	1,050	1,000	1,050
Housing Bank	JD 1,000	660	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,150
** Dar Aldawa Invest. & Development Co.	JD 1,000	1,835	1,500	1,700	1,650	1,700	—	1,650
Industrial, Commercial & Agricul. Co.	JD 1,000	1,762	2,200	2,200	2,200	2,200	—	—
Arab Pharmaceutical Co.	JD 5,000	972	12,800	13,000	12,850	13,000	13,000	—
Arab Aluminium Co.	JD 1,000	285	0,950	0,950	0,950	0,950	—	—
Jerusalem Insurance Co.	JD 1,000	225	2,200	2,250	2,250	2,250	—	—
Jordan Electricity Co.	JD 1,000	8,533	1,250	1,250	1,250	1,250	1,250	1,300
Jordan Cement Factories	JD 10,000	156	15,650	15,650	15,650	15,650	15,600	15,750
Jordan Ceramic Industries	JD 1,000	475	0,950	0,950	0,950	0,950	0,950	1,050
* Jordan Glass Factories	JD 1,000	290	0,900	0,900	0,900	0,900	—	0,900
Jordan Petroleum Co.	JD 5,000	4,194	6,550	6,550	6,500	6,500	6,500	6,550
Jordan Phosphate Mines	JD 1,000	424	2,100	2,100	2,100	2,100	—	—

Total volume traded, Thursday, March 23: JD 22,726

* 50 per cent of share capital paid.
** 75 per cent of share capital paid.

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BUSINESS SUPPLIES

U.S. miners vote on new contract to settle pay, benefits dispute

WASHINGTON, March 23 (R). — America's longest coal strike -- a walk-out by 160,000 miners that has lasted nearly four months -- could be over by the weekend. United Mine Workers (UMW) union members vote tomorrow on a contract negotiated by their union leaders to settle their dispute over pay and conditions in the country's soft coal industry.

But despite a proposed increase in average hourly pay from \$7.80 to \$10.20 over the next three years, the result of the voting is expected to be close.

Wage and fringe benefit increases are estimated to total 39 per cent, but the miners say money was not the real issue in the weeks of bargaining with the Bituminous Coal Operators' Association.

They say their chief concern was over health benefits, pen-

sions and the penalties for leaders of illegal strikes.

While concessions were made by the owners on the unauthorized strike issue, many miners argue that the new health programme is weaker than the one it replaces.

Since they stopped work last December, the miners have defied direct intervention by President Carter, first through federal mediation and then through a court injunction ordering them back to work. Both efforts failed.

A tentative contract negotiated with government help was overwhelmingly rejected by the strikers and the court injunction sending them back to work on the grounds that the health and safety of the country were imperilled by the men.

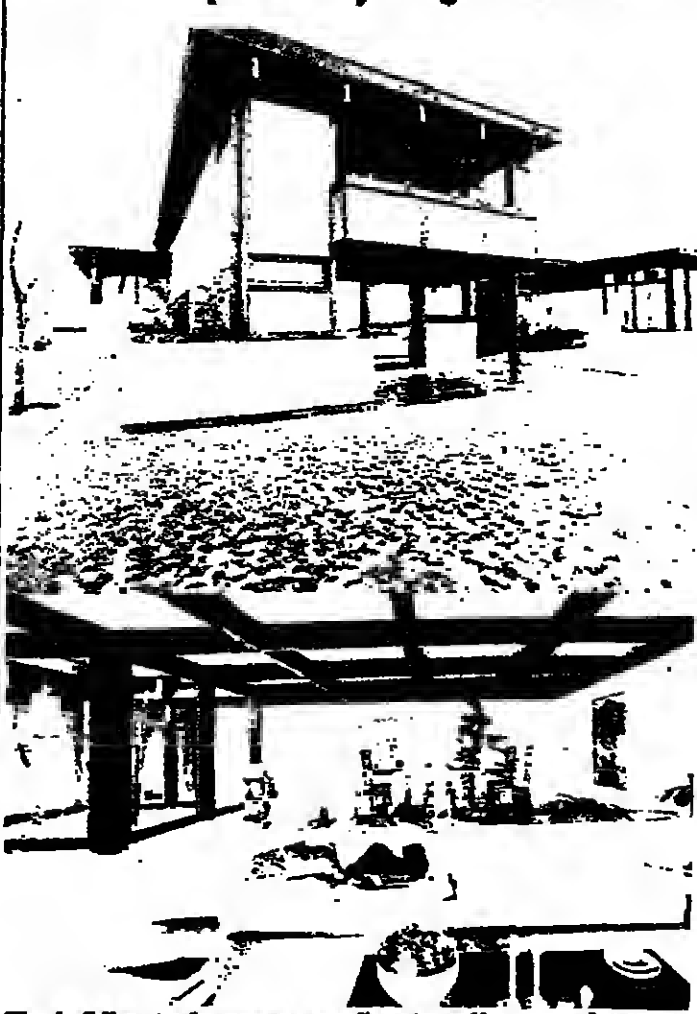
If the miners do vote for a return to work tomorrow -- the 109th day of the strike -- it may be because their union is threatened with financial ruin and many of them can no longer keep up payments on their homes or cars.

If they reject the contract, the employers are expected formally to declare an impasse and to try to arrange individual agreements between mine companies and union branches.

Regardless of the result, a major casualty of the strike has been President Carter's energy plan, which stressed the reliability of home-produced fuels such as coal over imported oil.

And whatever the final settlement, U.S. consumers will certainly have to pay more for their coal because of the long winter strike.

Wood is tops with young homemakers



The building trade, one of the first to suffer from the recession, is finding business brisker. The baby boom of the late fifties and early sixties is leaving school and moving into homes of its own. Nearly half a million new homemakers a year are entering the housing market in the Federal Republic of Germany at the moment. Wood is as popular with the present generation of homemakers as ever. Trade fairs and show houses testify to the many uses to which this versatile material can be put. This award-winning wood-framed home in Lower Saxony may look a far cry from traditional black-and-white designs, but wood is reassuringly comfortable. (Dad photo)

Stormy weather halts efforts to salvage oil from wrecked tanker off Brittany coast

BREST, France, March 23 (R). — Stormy weather and the threat of huge spring tides today could dash all hope of salvaging the 50,000 tons of oil still aboard the wrecked tanker Amoco-Cadiz.

French maritime police say that unless the gale-force winds and poor visibility improve by the weekend the tanker, which has already caused the world's biggest oil-spill, will dump its remaining cargo of crude into the ocean.

The weather has delayed plans to chart the rocky waters around the wreck in order to allow a relief tanker to ap-

proach safely and siphon off the remaining oil.

"The weather is critical," said Harry Renkema, Vice President of the American Amoco Company, the vessel's owners.

It ran aground a week ago, and the next day split in half spilling its cargo of crude oil into the ocean.

The 62 mile long slick spewed from the vessel onto the fish-rich Brittany coast and threatens to pollute the water and shoreline for years.

Angry fishing trade unionists, shouting "we want jobs not oil," demonstrated outside police headquarters here last night, demanding new laws to prevent tankers nearing the coast.

Salvage teams could not land on the ship yesterday because of the weather, and heavy spring tides this weekend could make their job impossible, oil industry sources said.

Pasquale Bardani, the Italian skipper of the 109,000-ton tanker, has been charged with polluting the sea and released on bail.

Yesterday the French government released an initial five million francs (\$1 million) to compensate fishermen and other locals for damage caused by the oil.

Dollar weakens on Japanese, European foreign exchanges

LONDON, March 23 (R). — The dollar weakened on European foreign exchange markets today in thin trading ahead of the long Easter holiday.

By contrast, trading was active in Tokyo where the dollar sank to its record post-war low rate of 230 yen, first hit on March 17.

A total of \$491 million changed hands in Tokyo during the course of the day's trading.

The Bank of Japan was reported to have bought \$200 million to \$250 million to keep the dollar from falling beneath the 230-yen barrier.

Altogether, the bank is estimated to have bought \$3 billion so far this month to prop up the U.S. currency and its governor, Mr. Teichiro Morinaga, today said the policy of intervention would continue in order to curb speculation.

According to the Japanese government, the rise of the yen against the dollar seriously threatens the future of Japanese exporters whose goods are becoming more expensive to buy abroad.

Mr. Morinaga said the United States should defend the dollar more seriously and added that Japan should make a bigger effort to reduce its huge current account surplus.

West Germany today reported a current account surplus of 500 million marks (about \$250 million) last month, compared with a deficit of 400 million marks (about \$200 million) in January.

On March 22, the U.S. Commerce Department reported that the United States current account balance of payments deficit was a record \$30.2 billion in 1977.

Imbalance between the performance of the United States and that of the economies of Japan and West Germany is seen as one of the main causes

of the dollar's present weakness.

Against this background, British Prime Minister James Callaghan is meeting President Jimmy Carter in Washington today to discuss the international economic situation.

The meeting could lay some of the groundwork for an economic summit of the Western industrialized nations and Japan scheduled to be held in Bonn in July.

Saudi project to improve communications links with Jordan, Syria, Iraq

JEDDAH, March 23 (R). — A \$500 million communications project in Saudi Arabia is designed to improve links with Jordan, Syria and Iraq, Communications Minister Alawi Darwish Kayyal said yesterday.

The project is being carried out by the United States Western Electric Company.

Dr. Kayyal said telecommunication links with other Arab countries would be discussed at an Arab communications ministers' meeting in Saudi Arabia on Saturday.

Telephone links between Saudi Arabia and North African countries, hitherto operated through Europe, would be run via Sudan and Egypt in the near future, the minister added. Iraq's Minister of Transport Mukarram Jamal arrived in Jeddah yesterday for the conference.

Egypt expects to export 200,000 tons of rice this year

ALEXANDRIA, Egypt, March 23 (R). — Egypt is expected to export 200,000 tons of rice, mainly to Arab countries, this year, Egyptian export sources said yesterday.

This year's export quota was about the same as last year's and destined for the same markets, the sources added. The bulk

of the exports will go to Syria, Jordan and Lebanon, with 15,000 tons to Western Europe.

Syria, whose relations with President Anwar Sadat's peace overtures to Israel, is importing 15,000 tons this year compared with 40,000 tons last year.

Rhodesia's mining industry badly hit in face of world recession

By John Leech

SALISBURY, (F.T.) — Together with the export of agricultural surpluses, the mining industry has underpinned the Rhodesian economy and enabled it to continue to beat U.N. sanctions.

Throughout the 12 years of U.D.I. mining has provided some 50 per cent of Rhodesia's foreign earnings and the graph of both production and value has steadily risen.

There are now signs, however, that this essential source of revenue and foreign exchange will not, at this particularly important time for Rhodesia, prove quite the same golden goose as it has been in the past.

Due to the depressed state of the world's metal markets more than 1,700 miners have lost their jobs in the past few months. Two important chrome mines have closed; several mining groups have announced losses and production cutbacks.

Minerals mainly affected, in addition to chrome, are copper, nickel and zinc. Only gold is doing well.

Wankie colliery, the country's biggest coal producer, closed one shaft in 1976 in reflection of low world steel production. In July 1977 Rio Tinto closed two chrome mines and a ferro-chrome pilot smelter plant.

About 700 jobs were affected by the Rio Tinto closures. Last November, Lonrho's Inyati copper mine made 900 workers redundant after the announcement of heavy financial losses in the previous quarter.

Not long afterwards, Rio Tinto announced a 16 per cent profit drop at its Shangani Mine and cut production by half, causing 109 redundancies out of a workforce of 440.

The government, however, continues to insist that last year's overall mining output will establish another record in terms of both tonnage and value.

With gold riding high, this may turn out to be true, at least in terms of value, but the base metals industry is undoubtedly suffering considerably.

The Minister of Mines, Mr. Mussett, restated only two weeks ago the government's belief that new records would be set in last year's production, but few observers, and certainly no mining group executives, regard this with any conviction.

lication of actual sales or of the state of stockpiles. But a glimpse of the likely situation in this respect was given in Rio Tinto's latest quarterly review which spoke of the need to raise additional funds to finance stockpiles.

Under these circumstances of government secrecy it is extremely difficult to assess accurately the real state of the industry. Mining group officials, for example, appear to be under instruction not to reveal the effects of the repeal

Despite government secrecy there is evidence that Rhodesia's vital mining industry has been badly hit by the world recession in many metal markets. With the huge cost of fighting off the guerrillas this bodes ill for white supremacy.

of the U.S. Byrd Amendment last year on sales from Rhodesia's chrome mines. And chrome ore has been in the past one of the Rhodesian in-

dustrial's most prolific products. Certainly, Rhodesia's Association of Mineworkers, which represents both black and

white miners, is concerned about the situation in the industry. Its president, Mr. Howard Bloomfield, expressed his worry particularly over the fact that there is little if any provision to help those miners who cannot find alternative work.

It is not known just how many are actually workless as a result of the recent closures and cutbacks. Rio Tinto has said it is doing its best to find its redundant miners other jobs. Many of the unlucky

ones have to return to the tribal trust areas, workless and often homeless.

There are some 60,000 miners registered in Rhodesia, so that on the face of it, recent redundancies do not form a large percentage of the industry. But this figure includes countless numbers of "small workers", the individual entrepreneurs who work small and often seasonal operations.

Another indication of the state of the industry is that nothing further has been heard of a claim by former Minister Ian Dillon of the impending opening of a large new chrome mine costing millions of dollars.

The anti-nationalist war is now costing Rhodesia some £500,000 a day, over 20 per cent of its annual budget, and the latest signs that all is not well with the economy are the further reductions in import quotas.

Despite all the secrecy involved in economic matters, enough indications have emerged recently to show that the burdens are becoming heavier.

Unless Rhodesia can earn foreign exchange from its mining and its agriculture, its economy cannot function.

Asked in a T.V. interview whether the Rhodesian economy could withstand the war burden indefinitely, Prime Minister Ian Smith said unequivocally: "Yes." He did not elaborate, and economic observers do not share his optimism.

-- Financial Times News-Features

LOCAL EXCHANGE RATES

Jordanian fils Buying/Selling	
U.S. dollar	310.00/312.00
U.K. sterling	588.00/592.00
W. German mark	151.90/152.80
Swiss franc	161.90/162.80
French franc	66.50/66.90
Italian lire (for every 100)	36.20/36.40
Japanese yen (for every 100)	134.50/135.30
Dutch guilder	141.80/142.60
Belgian franc (for every ten)	97.70/98.30
Swedish crown	67.30/67.70

-- Financial Times News-Features

Remittances emerge as Egypt's latest cash corp

The exodus of skilled labour from Egypt to higher paying jobs elsewhere created a serious shortage of skilled workers at home, but the authorities are using the situation to remedy a far more critical shortage -- Egypt's lack of hard currency.

By Bob Allison

CAIRO, (F.T.) — "Our country," Egyptians like to say, "lives off three crops -- cotton, tourists and the Suez Canal." Now there's a fourth -- remittances.

More than half a billion U.S. dollars in much needed hard currency was sent home in the past year by Egyptians working abroad, as much as the canal and tourists each brought in. And by 1980 officials here expect income from remittances to pass the billion dollar mark.

There's no limit in sight on how much Egypt may eventually earn through its export of manpower. The supply is almost limitless. A population of nearly 40 m. people is increasing by another million every year, and the population density in the habitable area is one of the highest in the world.

The demand for labour in this region is practically insatiable. Saudi Arabia alone will need another one million imported workers to carry out its vast development programme.

Until a few years ago the

exodus of workers, looking for better jobs, was considered one of the country's critical problems. Those leaving were skilled workmen, carpenters, electricians, plumbers and masons, creating a serious shortage of trained workers. Most of them went to the Gulf or Libya, where they were making four times what they could make in Egypt.

Then some of the brighter people in the economic ministry took another look at the situation and decided that far from being a problem, it was an opportunity that was being missed.

None of the Egyptian banks were getting any of the hard currency earned by these workers because the government would pay only the official rate, 43 piastres to the dollar, for remittance money. So all of it was going into the black market at 70 or more piastres to the dollar.

To attract the remittance money the government established an "incentive rate" about equal to the black market rate. It also created attractive investment opportunities such as American dollar bonds that pay eight per cent,

a very high rate here, and interest on savings accounts was given a hefty boost. The remittance money started to roll into the banks after these measures.

None of this, of course, helped to relieve the shortage of skilled workers, but it has helped the much more critical problem of a shortage of hard currency.

To increase its supply of trained workers the Housing Ministry has set up a \$110 m. vocational training programme to turn out 50,000 skilled workers and 60 foremen each year for the next five years. The World Bank is financing most of the project and several European countries such as West Germany, France and Italy are also helping.

Probably a third of the graduates will emigrate. The money they send home will soon pay off the costs of the programme, and those who stay behind will help to relieve Egypt's shortage of skilled manpower.

Egypt is not the only country exporting labour to get in on the Middle East construction boom. There are at least 200,000 Jordanians (nearly all Palestinians) working in the Gulf. They contribute more than \$300 m. to Jordan's economy each year. About 200,000 Iranians and Pakistanis also work in the area. South Korea has exported more than 40,000 workers.

The Koreans are using the manpower exports to win con-

Nicosia court rejects gunman's confession

NICOSIA, Cyprus, March 23 (AP). — A Nicosia court yesterday rejected a confession by one of two Palestinian gunmen accused of murdering a prominent Egyptian here last month.

The three-man court ruled the confession was inadmissible as evidence, because the accused, Samer Mohammad Katar, 28, was not fluent in English, the language used by the police officer who took a statement from him.

The court said the statement should have been taken in Arabic through an interpreter.

Both Mr. Katar and the other accused, Zayed Hussein Ali Ali, 26, pleaded innocent when their trial opened March 9.

They are accused of the premeditated murder of Youssef Sibat, the Editor-in-Chief of Egypt's leading newspaper, Al-Ahram, in Nicosia on Feb. 28. With the rejection of Mr. Katar's confession the only prosecution evidence yet to be heard is the testimony of a ballistic expert, the last of 42 witnesses.

The trial will continue Thursday and is expected to continue a few more days, depending on the number of witnesses called by the defence.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON, (R). — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies against the dollar at the close of interbank trading on the London foreign exchange market last night. Tourist rates will differ from those quoted below.

One sterling	1.8720/40	U.S. dollars
One dollar	2.0385/0415	West German marks
	2.1785/1815	Dutch guilders
	1.9020/70	Swiss francs
	31.69/74	Belgian francs
	4.65/4.68	French francs
	854.65/855.15	Italian lire
	229.70/90	Japanese yen
	4.58/4.61	Swedish crowns
	unquoted	Norwegian crowns
	unquoted	Danish crowns

LONDON MARKET REPORT

Stock prices closed lower in dull trading Thursday ahead of the Easter weekend, dealers said. At 15:00 the F.T. index was down 23 at 460.3.

Government bonds finished 1/8 lower in long dated bonds while shorts lost 1/16. Industrial leaders mostly lost a penny or so.

Gold shares held quietly firm but were below the highest levels of the day. Australians were steady while U.S. and Canadian stocks firmed.

Shell and Burmah lost 3p and a penny to 522 and 47 respectively, while B.P. held unchanged.

Rank lost 12p to 238 on reports of a broker's forthcoming circular estimating lower profits. ICI, Beecham, Plaxsey and Distillers shed between a penny and 3p. GEC and Reed were unchanged.

Price of gold closed in London Thursday at \$179.39/oz.

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, MARCH 24, 1978

Your HOROSCOPE

from the CARROLL RIGTER INSTITUTE

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Your relationships with co-workers and close friends produce good results under the influence of the Full Moon. But act quickly in any agreements since by so doing you are able to greatly enhance your present activities.

ARIES (March 21 to Apr. 19) Try to better understand those you are dealing with and you have greater mutual success. An attitude of reconciliation is wise with one who has been acting strangely lately.

Taurus (Apr. 20 to May 20) Incorporate your own ideas into your present work so that it becomes more efficient and profitable. Be more cooperative where co-workers are concerned and get good results.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Plan recreations intelligently and get the maximum of enjoyment from them. Show more affection for mate, loved one and be happy.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) You are able to cooperate with others who need both at home and in civic matters. Entertain important personalities. Show proper respect and get good results.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 21) You are thinking cleverly about reative plans and can make headway by eliminating problems. Be in tune with today's good aspects.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Study financial dealings and come to right decisions with others. Put new ideas to work that give you a greater abundance in the future.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) You understand better how to go after personal aims and gain them. Attend social functions that can lead to greater happiness and success.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) A good time to go after your data, you require in order to make your operations more successful. Show true affection for the one you love.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Get out to fun places with congenials, but only after work is done. Find better ways of gaining your aims, be they personal or business associated with business.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) You are able to gain the favor of bigwigs who can help to pave your way to greater success now. Plan time for entertainment you like.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Study new interests now that will help you to be more successful and happy. Cultivate persons whose background has been different from your own. Be careful of tricky persons.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Schedule work ahead of you wisely so that you get best results. Use more modern systems. A little talk with co-workers can bring more cooperation.

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Libya takes aggressive approach to plans for agricultural independence by 1980

By Godfrey Grima

MALTA, (F.T.) — Replying to an after dinner toast while on an official visit to Niger recently Libyan leader Colonel Muammar Qadhafi warned fellow African leaders: "Unless Africa can stay on her own two feet, free from economic aid, political independence will remain an illusion."

It is of course easy for Col. Qadhafi to pontificate on economic freedom. From last year's export of 92.5 m. tons of crude oil, Libya earned close to \$8 billion. Impoverished African states, short of raw materials and minerals, find it hard to free themselves from the grip of the industrialised world, or the dependence on cash aid from luckier, bigger countries.

Libya not totally independent

Even Libya, despite its enormous oil wealth, is not com-

pletely independent from East and Western Europe for her basic needs. In one effort after the other Col. Qadhafi has been trying to curtail this dependence. The objective is to get Libya, possibly by 1980, to grow all her own food and produce all the goods she consumes.

When in December last year the country's General People's Congress, which functions very much like an ordinary parliament, met to review progress achieved by the current five year development plan, congressmen decided to funnel yet more cash into the exercise.

Originally it was felt that LD75 bn. (\$1-0.57 Libyan dinars) would create an adequate degree of self-reliance. The problem however is that Libya, like many other oil-producing countries, has suffered both from the decline in the sales of crude since the price quadrupled and from

Libya is determined to try and grow all its own food in another two years, in one of the most hectic, expensive and determined development plans which the world has ever seen. Most of Libya is desert and the people apathetic -- but Libya has abundant supplies of one major resource: Money.

The hefty increases in the cost of manufactured goods and raw materials.

The extent of the setback Libya suffered in 1975 is revealed in a publication recently released by the Libyan Central Bank. Income from oil production slumped by more than LD440 m. to LD2 bn. while the cost of imports soared to LD1.45 bn. In 1970, before the prices of oil and raw materials rocketed, Libya

was earning a total of LD853 m. and spending LD303 m. with a remaining LD550 m. going into the national coffers, but by 1975 the country was left with much less, LD314.6 m. to be exact.

Cash situation improving

In 1976, with exports of crude rising to 1.2 bn. tons from 1.1 bn. tons the year before, the country's cash situation

showed signs of improvement. Last year, with production, judging by official statistics, again down, the country just about managed to maintain her net-income position stable.

With imports therefore eating well into Libya's huge oil incomes Congress decided to step up the pace of development by pumping more funds into the economic mainstream.

To complete development schemes, some of which have been on hand since the early seventies, Libya is now planning to spend more than LD2.2 bn. by 1980. This year's budget alone will cost LD1.7 bn.

The more aggressive and successful efforts are reserved for creating, out of desert outbacks and windswept coastline escarpments, a highly productive agricultural industry.

Aggressive development

This year close to LD500 m. will go into setting up new modern farmsteads where impressive wheat, barley, vegetables and fruits grow, to reclaim and farm abandoned regions in the heart of the country, and to build expensive dams and water catchment schemes. Another LD221 m. will finance the building of new factories. By 1980 the figure for both agriculture and industry will have climbed to an astronomical LD2.8 bn.

The rest is needed to modernise a cracking infrastructure while attempts at creating a consumer-producer state are made. Bids to generate electricity for the development of an industrial base and for the new urban schemes rising in the deep south will, by 1980, have absorbed LD900 m.

Housing, where Col. Qadhafi's ambition to provide every Libyan family with decent accommodation still remains to be fulfilled, is being allocated more than LD1.1 bn. with LD211 m. being spent this year.

"We are now spending close to 93 per cent of our development budget though most countries find it hard to complete 60 per cent of their schemes", an official at the Ministry of Planning remarks with understandable pride.

Heavy industry, petrochemical emphasis

Within 10 years the Libyans hope their economy will have changed considerably with exports of chemical fertilizers, plastics, refined oil products and possibly iron ore overtaking oil shipments. Already emphasis is being placed on the creation of heavy industry and petrochemicals.

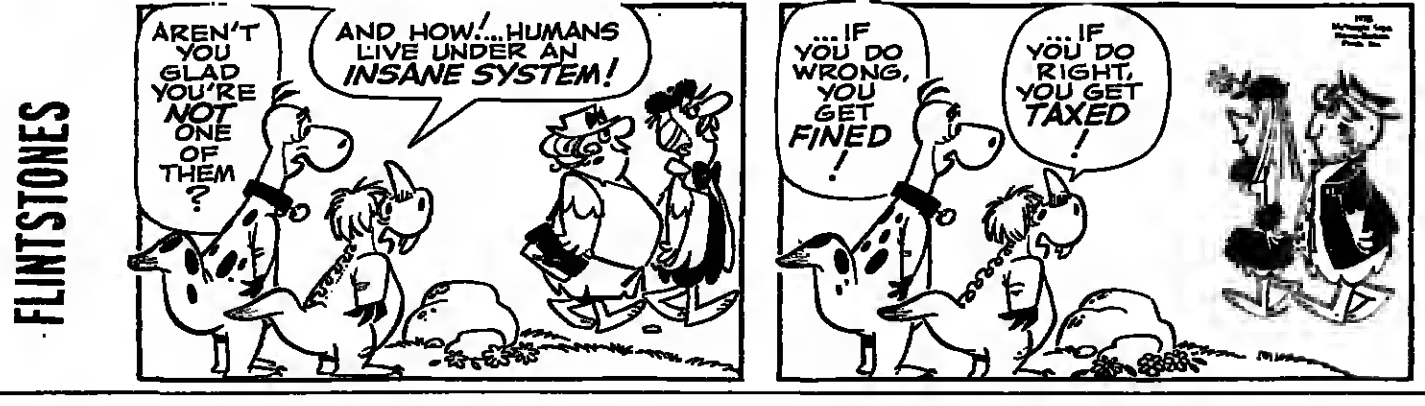
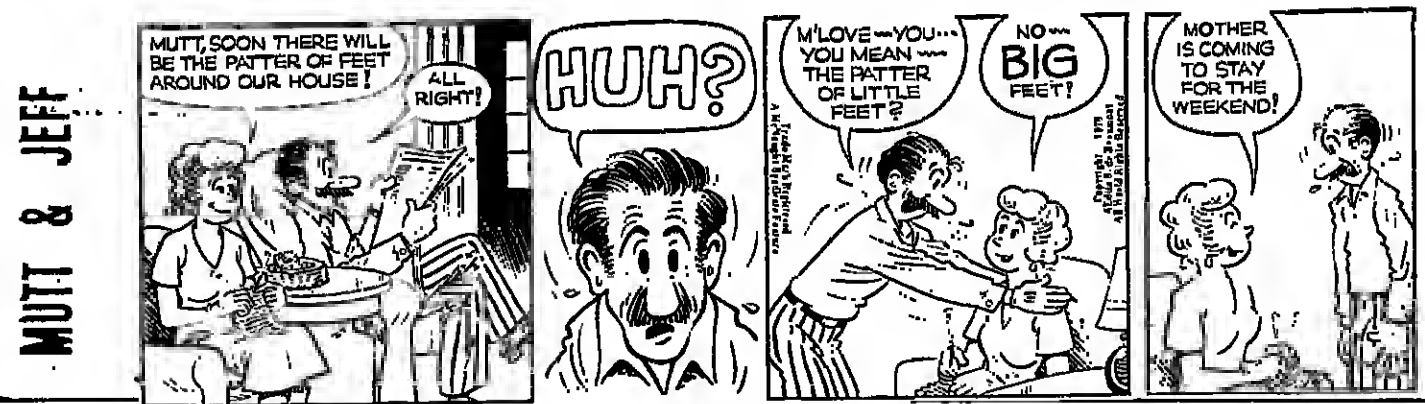
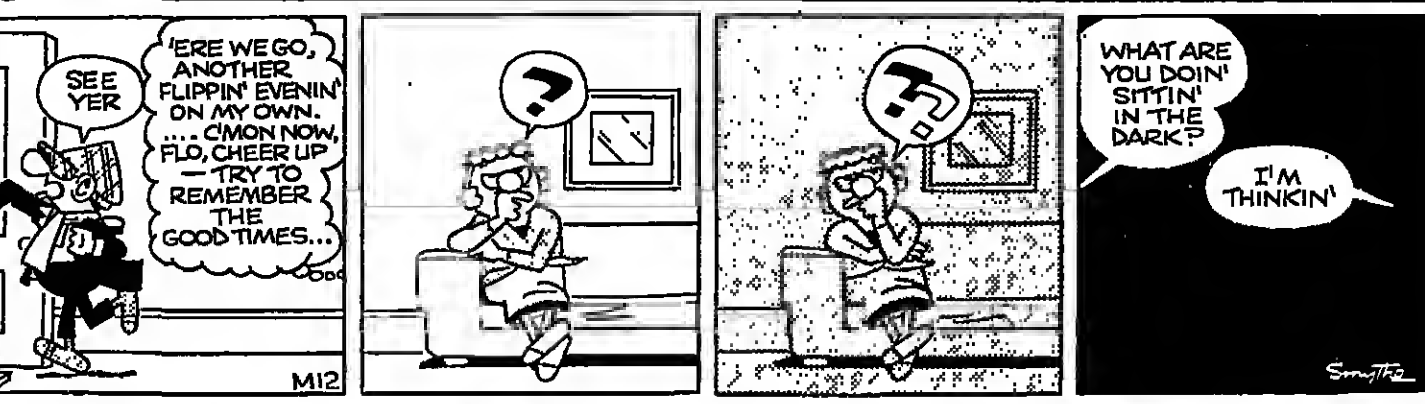
Success so far has been encouraging although clearly much ground must still be won in this dash for growth. According to official sources certain sectors are growing at a faster pace than planned. Certainly the 19.5 per cent growth rate achieved in the past three years in the non-petroleum industrial sector is encouraging, even though this must be seen from the viewpoint that increases are being made from scratch. At any rate ranking Libyan officials are confident enough to forecast a 30 per cent increase in industrial output. Electricity within two years will grow by 23 per cent, transport, which includes the building of a merchant and tanker fleet, by 18 per cent, agriculture by 16 per cent and health services by 12 per cent.

Labour drain problem

The problems which still litter the way are not insignificant. Primarily Libya, with a population that hardly comes up to 2 m. depends heavily on immigrant labour from neighbouring Egypt, Sudan and Tunisia. With relations with Egypt and Sudan still at a low ebb there has recently been a steady exodus of badly needed workers.

Also, the building of a modern state would only see Libya half-way through fulfilling the overall objective of creating a self-reliant economy. Once development is completed Libyans must be able to take over the efficient running of the economy themselves. Col. Qadhafi is pumping more than half a billion dinars into education in the next two years. His main obstacle remains, however, the sheer inertia which seems to grip most Libyans.

-- Financial Times News-Features



THE BETTER HALF By Barnes

ELECTRIC APPLIANCES

LAUNDRY TUBS WASHER DRYER

"How much trade-in would you give us on an electric lothe?"

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE

JORDAN TELEVISION

BBC RADIO

AMMAN AIRPORT

Channel 3 & 6:

16:00 Quran
16:15 Cartoons
16:55 Laurel and Hardy
17:15 Science for children
17:30 Religious programme
17:40 Animated classics
17:50 Soap
18:00 Religious programme
18:15 Arabic play
18:30 In search of
18:45 Arabic songs
18:55 Documentary
19:00 Soccer match
19:20 Gunsmoke
20:00 News in Arabic

23:00 News in Arabic

Channel 3:

18:30 Religious programme
18:50 Arabic series
19:10 Interview with a Jordanian artist

Channel 6:

18:30 News in Hebrew
18:45 Zero one
19:00 Whatever happens to the lucky ladies
19:10 The brothers
19:20 News in English
22:15 Baratta

RADIO JORDAN

7:00 Morning show
7:30 News bulletin
7:50 Morning show
8:30 Morning show
10:00 News headlines
10:30 Morning show
11:00 Happy journey
11:30 Signing off
12:00 News headlines
12:30 Pop session
12:50 News summary

13:05 Pop session
14:00 News bulletin
14:30 Special feature
15:00 Concert hour
16:00 Pop session
17:00 Country music
18:00 Pop session
18:30 News summary
18:45 Jumping Jack Flash
19:00 News bulletin
19:10 News reports
19:30 Signing off

EMERGENCIES

Doctors:

Amman:

Hani Stadden (77761)
Tawfik, Amman (25566)
Khalid, Amman (25566)
Ridwan Saif
Zarqa:
Munir Aqel (3746)
Taxis:
Fahsow (37249)
Rashad (25023)

University (61001)
Sahra (21300)

Pharmacies:

Amman:
Sobagha (22157)
Shahid (25555)
Jabal Amman (25555)
Fahsow (37146)
Zarqa:
Bashar
Awleh
Zarqa:
Amal

GMT
05:00 News, 24 Hours
05:30 Sarah Ward
06:45 World Today
08:00 News
08:30 What's News
07:00 News, 24 Hours
07:30 Sarah Ward
07:45 Marchant Navy
08:00 News, Reflections
08:15 Schenkel plays Beatles
08:30 Take it or Leave it
08:50 News, Book Choice
09:15 World Today
09:30 Financial News
09:45 Good Friday Service
10:15 Marchant Navy
10:30 Science in Action
11:00 News, News about Britain
11:15 Face of England
11:30 Bob Holness
12:00 Radio News
12:15 My Music
12:45 Sports Round-up
13:00 News, 24 Hours
13:30 Radio Theatre
14:15 Letterbox
14:30 Meet the Composer

VOICE OF AMERICA

MT

03:00 The Breakfast Show
to on the hour and 25
06:30 after each hour
17:00 News
17:15 This week
17:20 Press Conference USA
18:00 Special English, News/Worlds and their stories

18:00 Radio News
18:15 Music for Good Friday
18:30 News, Commentary
18:45 World Today
19:00 News, Book Choice
19:15 Music Now
19:45 Sports Round-up
20:00 News, News about Britain
18:15 Radio News
18:30 Folk and Country
19:00 Arizon, Long Live the First Star
19:20 Stock Market Report
19:45 About Britain
20:00 News, 24 Hours
20:30 You are what you eat
21:00 World Radio Club
21:15 Sarah Ward Requests
21:45 When Nothing Else is Left
22:00 News, World Today
22:25 Golden Treasury
22:35 Book Choice, Reflections
23:45 Sports Round-up
23:00 Country Music USA
23:15 From the Weeklies
23:30 Folk and Country

18:30 Country Music USA
19:00 News and Topical Reports
19:15 Letters from Listeners
19:30 New York, New York
20:00 Special English, News/Worlds and their stories
20:15 Music USA (Zona)

Arrivals:

8:00 Baghdad
8:15 Cairo (EA)
11:45 Kuwait (KAC)
16:30 Bucharest (Aron)
17:40 Paris (AF)
18:00 New York, Rome
18:00 London, Paris
18:00 Madrid, Athens
18:15 Jeddah, Medina (SD)
20:00 Beirut (MEA)
21:05 Frankfurt, Munich, Damascus (LT)
21:35 London (BA)
22:30 Beirut
24:00 Cairo

Departures:

8:45 Beirut (MEA)
8:15 Cairo (EA)
9:30 Amman, Frankfurt
10:10 Athens, Amsterdam (GAL)
12:45 Kuwait (KAC)
18:00 Cairo
18:30 Dubai, Karachi
19:30 Damascus, Beirut
19:30 Medina, Jeddah (SD)
20:30 Kuwait
21:00 Tehran
22:55 Rawalpindi (BA)
Doha, Muscat

CULTURAL CENTRES

American Centre (USIS)	Tel. 41520
British Council	36147-8
French Cultural Centre	37009
Goethe Institute	41993
Soviet Cultural Centre	44203
Amman Municipal Library	36111

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Ambulance (government)	Tel. 75111
Civil defence rescue	34391-4
Fire headquarters	22090
First aid, fire, police	19
Jordan Electric Power Co. (emergency)	36381-2
Municipal water service (emergency)	37111-3
Police headquarters	39141
Night roving patrol rescue police, (English spoken) 24 hours a day for emergency help	21111, 37777
Airport Information (Alia)	52305

Young makes effort to achieve ceasefire in Rhodesian war

LUSAKA, March 23 (R). — United States envoy Andrew Young is expected to hold informal talks with leaders of black Africa's "frontline" states in Dar Es Salaam this weekend, aides said today. The presidents of the "frontline" states -- Angola, Botswana, Mozambique, Tanzania and Zambia -- are to hold summit talks there at the weekend with leaders of the Rhodesian black nationalist guerrillas.

Mr. Young's aides said the black American diplomat did not expect to address the summit formally.

But he would hold informal discussions with the frontline presidents. The U.S. envoy arrived in Lusaka yesterday from Tanzania on an African tour and forecasts would be made in the next few weeks to secure a ceasefire in the Rhodesian war.

Analysts said it seemed like

ly he would be pursuing ceasefire proposals when he met the black African presidents, who support the guerrilla war effort.

The black U.S. diplomat told Zambia's President Kenneth Kaunda last night, "We will continue working with you and the frontline presidents to try to bring about a settlement that does bring about genuine majority rule and does end the fighting."

"I am confident that in the

next few weeks we will begin to see some new determination on the part of all parties to bring about a genuine ceasefire," he said.

Mr. Young and Dr. Kaunda, speaking publicly in the Zambian leader's official residence here, both condemned the internal deal last night.

Dr. Kaunda said it would leave power in white hands and lead to a superpower confrontation in the territory. "There is a wide understanding that what you say about the internal settlement is correct," Mr. Young told him.

Bhutto receives first visit from wife since sentenced to be hung

LAHORE, Pakistan, March 23 (R). — Ex-Premier Zulfikar Ali Bhutto yesterday received his first visit from his wife since he was sentenced to hang for ordering a political assassination.

Iran-born Mrs. Nusrat Bhutto later refused to say whether her husband intended to appeal to the Supreme Court. He has until Sunday to appeal.

Four others convicted with him last Saturday -- all officers of the now disbanded Federal Security Force -- lodged appeals yesterday.

Mr. Bhutto, 50, who was ousted in a coup last July, is held in a bare condemned cell. The only concession to his five-and-a-half years as ruler of Pakistan is a cot to sleep on.

Demonstrations against the verdict continued, but on a small scale. The army regime rounded up hundreds -- some said thousands -- of officials of Mr. Bhutto's Peoples Party

before the verdict was announced.

Twenty-five people were arrested in Rawalpindi after women students held a procession. Other processions were reported from Islamabad, Hyderabad and Peshawar.

A canal was breached in Sind Province, causing flooding but no injuries.

Anti-Bhutto political parties were reported considering an offer by the army last week to form a national government.

The Urdu-language newspaper Nawai-waqf said all but one of the eight parties in the Pakistan National Alliance had shown interest in the offer. It was extended also to some elements within Mr. Bhutto's Peoples Party.

The idea of a national government was last raised six months ago when Gen. Zia-ul-Haq, the military ruler, postponed elections indefinitely to give him time to try Mr. Bhutto on charges of political corruption.

Chad - Frolinat reconciliation talks begin

SARHA, March 23 (R). — Talks began in this central Libyan town today aimed at reconciliation between the Chad government and rebels of the Chad National Liberation Front, Frolinat.

Frolinat has carried on a guerrilla war in northern Chad for 12 years and now claims to control half the country.

The talks were agreed upon last month at a summit meeting of leaders of Chad and its neighbors, Sudan, Niger and the Libyan Jamahiriya. All four countries are represented at the talks here, which are chaired by Sudanese Vice President Major Abu Al Gasim Mohamed Ibrahim.

The military head of Frolinat is leading the rebels' delegation, while his predecessor, who crossed over to the government in 1976, is taking part on the Chadian side.

Book released claiming successful cloning

NEW YORK, March 23 (R). — A book claiming a human being has been created from a test tube became available to reviewers today -- along with an author's note saying he does not expect to be believed.

The book, in his image, by science writer David Rorvik, also has a statement from the publishers, saying they were taking the author's word that his account was true and that they had no independent way of authenticating the work.

In his image, has been denounced sight unseen by dozens of American scientists who say it is not yet possible to produce a human being through the asexual reproductive system called cloning -- a complicated cell manipulation process which allows the creation of genetic duplicates.

The author says the laboratory baby, created from a single male cell, is now a healthy 14-month-old boy.

A first look at the book raises the possibility that the scientific world will still reject its claims, even though they are now in print.

Hired by millionaire

The book is rich in novelistic detail as Mr. Rorvik, 34, tells how he was approached by a millionaire named Max and asked to hire scientists willing to produce the first human clone.

Mr. Rorvik said Max, then 67 years old, had his heart set on having an exact genetic duplicate of himself created.

The author says he found the scientist he calls Darwin who was willing to perform the necessary experiments using Max's money. He also tells how they set up shop in a foreign country he declines to name.

Mr. Rorvik admits to changing certain details in his story to protect the privacy of those involved.

He tells how surrogate mothers were chosen and how Max eventually came to fancy one of them, a woman Mr. Rorvik names Sparrow.

Eventually, Mr. Rorvik says, an egg containing only Max's cells was transplanted into Sparrow's womb. She gave birth to the millionaire's clone.

Details of certain processes involved in the cloning were left out of the book, and this may make it impossible for scientists to verify Rorvik's claim.

The author, a former Time magazine writer, says at the end of the book, "I am confident that in the future, of time, complete documentation will be forthcoming."

"In the meantime, I entertain no expectations that anyone, scientist or layman, would accept this book as proof of the events described."

Subarto sworn in

Indonesia's Malik is elected Vice President

JAKARTA, March 23 (R). — President Suharto of Indonesia was sworn in for his third five-year term today and soon afterwards the People's Congress elected former Foreign Minister Adam Malik as his Vice President.

The choice of 60-year-old Mr. Malik, like yesterday's re-election

of the president, was unopposed and unanimous.

President Suharto, 66, who came to power after crushing the 1965 communist coup attempt, said after being sworn in he was deeply grateful to the Congress and to the entire Indonesian people who had placed full confidence in him.

"But I am well aware that the duty entrusted upon me is extremely heavy," he added.

Mr. Malik succeeds Sultan Hamengku Burwono, who declined re-election for health reasons. He will be sworn in tonight.

A veteran of Indonesia's struggle against Dutch colonial rule, Mr. Malik is popular with the young and, observers believe, a possible bridge between the government and dissident students.

He was foreign minister for 11 years before being elected chairman of Congress and Parliament last October.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES H. GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
© 1978 by Chicago Tribune

North-South vulnerable.
South deals.

NORTH
♠ 4
♥ A J 10 3
♦ K Q 9 4
♣ A J 6 2

WEST EAST
♠ 2 ♠ Q 9 7 6
♥ Q 9 7 5 4 ♠ 8 6
♦ J 10 5 ♦ 8 7 2
♣ 10 8 4 3 ♣ K Q 9 5

SOUTH
♠ A K J 10 8 5 3
♥ K 2
♦ A 6 3
♣ 7

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
4 ♠ Pass 4NT Pass
5 ♠ Pass 7 ♠ Pass
Pass Pass
Opening lead: Jack of ♣.

For the first time, a leg of the Philip Morris European Cup was held behind the Iron Curtain when Hungary hosted the event in Lake Balaton in December. This hand is from that tournament. Study all four hands and decide whether you would rather play or defend a grand slam in spades.

North was somewhat aggressive in pushing to the grand slam with only a singleton trump. Obviously, he hoped his partner's spade suit would be solid.

It seems that East must score a trump trick, so we presume you elected to defend. But let's see what

GRAPO claims responsibility for murder of Spanish prison chief

MADRID, March 23 (R). — Police today hunted leftwing guerrillas who claimed responsibility for yesterday's machine-gun murder here of Spain's director general of prisons.

Senor Jesus Haddad Blanco, 39, was shot dead in the back seat of his official car by three young gunmen who escaped on foot.

He was the most senior Spanish official to be assassinated since Basque guerrillas killed Prime Minister Luis Carrero Blanco in December, 1973.

A communiqué left in a Madrid telephone booth last night claimed responsibility for the attack on behalf of the October First Anti-Fascist Resistance Groups (GRAPO).

It said the killing was to avenge an anarchist prisoner who died ten days ago in jail after interrogation. Senor Haddad's death was meant as a "warning to those who torture and mistreat prisoners," the communiqué said.

GRAPO, active since October 1975, have made numerous attacks on policemen and government officials. They were last night blamed for the murder by Interior Minister Rodolfo Martin Villa who said police ought to be given greater powers to combat terrorism.

Senor Martin Villa said police believed Senor Haddad's killers were the same gunmen who shot dead a Madrid policeman earlier this month. He al-

so linked the attack with a police captain's murder here last September.

In an interview published in a provincial newspaper on the morning of his death, Senor Haddad reiterated his commitment to improve conditions in Spanish jails which have been torn by disturbances for over a year.

The interior minister said last night the killing would not stop proposed reforms of the penal system and would not affect the consolidation of democracy in Spain.

Senor Martin Villa said "There is a political motive behind the killing because it was an attack on the state itself but it ought to be treated as just a common murder."

U.S. envoy sees positive new phase to U.S.-Somali relations

MOGADISHU, March 23 (R). — President Carter's special envoy to Somalia, Mr. Richard Moose, said today he believed relations between the United States and Somalia were entering a new and positive phase.

Mr. Moose, Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, was speaking to reporters at Mogadishu Airport as he left for Nairobi after a six-day visit which included several meetings with President Mohammad Siad Barre.

He said: "There is no doubt that at this stage in our relationship we share important common objectives and I believe that we will find ways to work together towards those objectives."

Mr. Moose and his delegation of three, which included a representative of the National Security Council, came

here to discuss U.S.-Somali relations and the situation in the Horn of Africa following the defeat of Somali forces by Russian and Cuban-backed Ethiopians in the Ogaden War.

Mr. Moose said he was to receive further instructions in Nairobi from Washington. U.S. Embassy sources said he may fly next to Saudi Arabia and Cairo, but there was no official confirmation of this.

The assistant secretary said his talks with President Siad Barre were extremely constructive and very friendly.

He said they discussed "the full range of bilateral questions of interest to us and we reviewed the situation in the Horn of Africa in detail."

He added: "We are entering a new and positive phase of a relationship that has extended back over some years."

Mr. Moose said he could give no details of his talks until he had reported back to President Carter and Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, but informed sources said they centered on U.S. conditions for satisfying Somalia's acute need for economic and military assistance.

Somali dream

President Carter has said no U.S. assistance will be given

in either sector until Somalia agrees to make a commitment not to dishonor the international boundaries with either Ethiopia or Kenya.

It was the Somali dream of eventually uniting all elements of the Somali race spread throughout neighboring countries which triggered the Ogaden War.

According to diplomatic sources here President Siad Barre has been at pains to keep his political options open as he faces pressure from his old ally, the Soviet Union, the Arab World and the West.

The secrecy surrounding his talks with Mr. Moose was particularly impregnable, even for a country where all major decisions are taken behind the closed doors of the ruling Revolutionary Socialist Party's Central Committee.

Observers believed the U.S. Somali discussions were immensely delicate and crucial to Somalia's future.

There is a feeling among diplomats here, however, that it may be some time before any decisions are announced. One Western ambassador said: "The president may well take a great gulp of air and plunge his head under water for a while, waiting to see exactly what the big powers are offering before he comes up."

Airlifts may decide outcome of Cook Islands elections

By Dai Hayward

LONDON, (R.T.) — A free airlift of voters across 2,000 miles of Pacific Ocean could topple Sir Albert Henry, autocratic strong man of the Cook Islands in the March 30th election. The fight would be financed by the opposition Democratic Party.

Sir Albert, who has kept a grip on the government of the Cook Islands since this South Pacific nation was granted independence 15 years ago, is at the same time one of the most vilified and most beloved of political leaders in the region.

Reviled for unashamedly handing out political favours to his supporters, and for filling major government posts with his family and friends, his opponents also accuse him of grave deceptions. Sir Albe-

The narrow outcome of the Cook Islands elections may be decided by airlifts of expatriate islanders from New Zealand. A fish-hungry, oil-hungry world awaits the result with interest.

rt constantly angers New Zealand Prime Minister Mr. Muldoon and his colleagues too, by giving free utterance to his outspoken views.

As well as being Prime Minister of the Cook Islands, Sir Albert is also his own Minister of Aviation, Immigration, External Affairs, National Development, Housing, Government and Central Administration. He also controls the Judicial Service Commission and the Legislature.

Although he has a seven-man cabinet -- which has al-

ways included at least one member of his immediate family -- Sir Albert personally makes every decision that matters. At the age of 74 this veteran of Pacific politics, and a great orator, shows no inclination to loosen his grip.

Countering accusations of his undemocratic behaviour, Sir Albert has alleged that overseas interests, including New Zealand business interests, are behind a plot to assassinate him. He also accuses his chief political opponent, Dr. Thomas Davis, of having a secret agreement with American financial interests to exploit the Cook Islands by turning them into a high-class tourist and gambling resort.

Some Cook Islands electoral seats are held so marginally that only a handful of voters are needed to tip the balance of power. Dr. Davis claims that as few as 30 more opposition voters in some constituencies could defeat Sir Albert's Cook Islands Party candidates. Under the Cook Islands constitution, originally drawn up by New Zealand, islanders can only vote if they are present on the islands, so Dr. Davis arranged to fly opposition supporters in from Auckland.

Sir Albert, as Minister of Civil Aviation, has told the New Zealand government that he will not allow the plane to land. He also says that he will fly in his own supporters if he can get a plane. The New Zealand Civil Aviation Department has told the premier that such a plane would not be given clearance unless the opposition party's airlift is also permitted to land.

During the last election in 1974, Dr. Davis organised an airlift of voters pledging allegiance to his party. But when the votes were counted at Rarotonga airport, Sir Albert had a majority of the voters' allegiance and Sir Al-

vis had a flight bill for \$17,000.

The fortunes of Sir Albert's party have dwindled since then however. Last year Dr. Davis' Democrats won a traditional Cook Islands party seat in a by-election, albeit by only 30 votes. In the forthcoming election Dr. Davis also has the support of two of Sir Albert's former cabinet ministers who resigned in protest at his growing nepotism.

Much more is at stake than the government of fifteen tropical islands which cover only 33 square miles of land but are scattered over 850,000 square miles of ocean. With the hardening attitude of some countries particularly New Zealand and Australia, towards foreign fishing boats, and with the development of offshore oil drilling and mineral exploitation techniques, control over this vast area of the Pacific could become of great importance over the next few years.

The Soviet Union has already shown interest in negotiating fishing rights with some smaller Pacific Islands states, and Japan will certainly be looking for more free fishing for its 300 squid boats now working off the New Zealand coast.

The Cook Islands themselves, supported only by the export of labour and citrus fruits, have staggered from economic crisis to economic crisis over the past few years. They have been helped by New Zealand aid which this year will amount to \$1.5 m.

A few years ago, New Zealand imposed tighter supervision over the distribution and spending of aid money which, it was claimed, was often spent on purposes other than those for which it was intended. With the eager eyes of the world now focused on Pacific Ocean waters for a multitude of reasons, the external relations of the Cook Islands are rapidly growing in importance. When the happy, friendly islanders go to the polls at the end of this month, the result will be of interest for outside Rarotonga and its neighbouring islands.

-- Financial Times News-Features

JOIN US FOR SPECIAL EASTER LUNCH BUFFET

Sunday MARCH 26th
Monday MARCH 27th
AT
CROWN ROTISSERIE
JORDAN INTER-CONTINENTAL

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

SCUHR

OSHUE

ACEPIE

BRYFLE

WHAT FUR DO YOU GET FROM A SKUNK?

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: AS "FOUR" AS

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: GUILD PAGAN ENCORE GOPHER

Answer: Pointed in one direction but headed in the other -- A PIN

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

1. English river

4. Venetian blind part

8. Tire tread

11. Yore

12. Dasheen

13. Plain in Palestine

14. Present time

16. Half mask

18. Gauze

19. Military title

20. Zero

21. Rattle

22. Gees

23. "The Wizard of"

24. Common sea gull

25. Wall painting

28. Warehouse

30. Thicken

31. Note of the scale

32. Gold in Heraldry

33. Rested

34. Burst

35. Chatter

38. Pronoun

39. Journalist

40. Water wheel

42. Chew

43. Chablis, for example

45. Possessive adjective

46. Before: prefix

47. Slider's delight

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48. Grassland

4. Pig's home

5. Singing style

6. Fervency

7. Appliance

8. Counterfeit

9. Banquet

10. Game of skill

15. Toward

17. Influential person

19. Raven's robe

20. Incline

21. Airplane

24. Medieval drink

25. Gathered

26. Ancient Palestinian

27. Edge

29. Well-bred

30. Pile of fish

33. Finch

34. Danger

35. Glance

36. Hebrew month

37. Pledge

38. Halt

40. Additional

41. King of Jell